SURPRISE! CHRIS BROWN IS A DAD

AND HIS GIRL DUMPED HIM ON TWITTER. PAGE 15

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Canine crisis.
Vets warn that chemicals in salt used to keep sidewalks clear can harm dogs paws, and lead to dehydration and illness.
PAGE 02

Sick as a dog

SNOW SALT HAZARD

Salt and snow make city streets a hard place for dogs to walk. / CARLOS LLAMAS, METRO

Rent control app could save you money

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You won't find gluten at this Italian spot

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Jets and Eagles may be trade partners

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The best of Metro.us

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2 'Tips on surviving daylight saving time from a sleep expert'

3 'New York City is still more affordable than San Francisco for renters'

Get the latest

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Adrian Feliciano (left) with Della in Sunset Park urges his neighbors to use less salt. / CARLOS LLAMAS

You've got boots on your feet, so why not Fido?

Pickled pooch. Vets warn street salt can harm pets paws, and cause intestinal problems.

Veterinarians and other animal lovers sounded the alarm Wednesday as a new winter storm hits the city: Dogs need their paws protected against the chemically treated salt used to melt the snow.

"The city and landlords go for the cheap stuff, and it's usually the worst quality," said Jordan Burton from The Barking Zoo in Chelsea. "It's just pure chemicals."

"I'm constantly cleaning off dog paws in this kind of weather," said Jim Cappaletti, who owns a dog walking and boarding business in New York. Cappaletti said he often sees dogs limping in the winter when the salt begins to bother them.

"Dogs like to lick their paws because of the irritation, but ingesting a little should be OK," Burton said. Even though it can irritate the stomach, only large quantities of salt would cause anything serious, he said.

"There's no way you can control what your dog is eating on the street," said Kim Fellen as she walked Daisy in Long Island City. "I just try to wash his paws to prevent him from licking the salt."

Dr. Ann Hohenhaus, a staff doctor at The Animal Medical Center in Manhattan, warned that the corrosive nature of sodium chloride can also lead to electrocution.

Visit **Metro.us** to read more about how to protect your pets.

While melting the snow, salt corrodes the wires in streetlamps and sewers. The exposed wire can electrify both the puddles and any other metal it hits.

In 2004, East Villager Jodie Lane, 30, died after stepping, with her dogs, on a manhole that had become electrified. The dogs suffered burns, but lived.

Dr. Hohenhaus recommended Morton's and Petco brand snowmelt as safer for dogs and colorized so owners can spot it.

There are other options — but Fido will give you a hard time with this one: doggy booties.

Boots and waterproof canvas sneakers are increasingly common sights on city streets (they run from $12 to $60 at Petco).

So are kids' balloons, which Cappaletti said the most effective choice all. Not to mention cheaper.

"It's also hilarious," Cappaletti said of watching dogs strut through the snow in balloon shoes.

Bad for dogs

Salt wreaks havoc on the paws of pooches, including:

- Painful discomfort when walking
- Paws drying out and cracking
- Rashes on the legs and underbelly
- Stomach aches and diarrhea from licking paws
- Increased chance of electrocution

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Affordability app. Find out if you're overpaying on rent

PROVIDED

New Yorkers could be one step closer to finding out if they're paying too much for rent.

A new open data site, amirentstabilized.com, was created by Chris Henrick, 33, a grad student at Parsons, according to DNAInfo.

New Yorkers curious if they're being overcharged enter their building address and borough on the site, which combs through rent records. Whether or not your building is listed as rent stabilized, the site recommends the next steps for finding rental history and filing a complaint.

"If people actually know they're rent stabilized, it doesn't mean anything unless the agency that protects and oversees rent stabilization are proactive," said Sheila Garcia, a community organizer with Community Action for Safe Apartments and tenant representative on the Rent Guidelines Board.

Garcia took a quick spin at Metro's request. After typing in a few buildings, Garcia said she was somewhat concerned with the accuracy of the site, which determines rent stabilization by building, since individuals apartments can be stabilized.

If renters do request rent history, Garcia recommends visiting your borough's Division of Housing and Community Renewal office and ask to be walked through the complicated information.

Renters who have been overpaying file for a refund within four years to get the money back.

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Arrests at car washers' protest

Labor dispute. City council members get arrested to push for car wash workers' rights.

Car washers protest. Below, City Councilman Carlos Menchaca is arrested. / NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

Car wash workers fighting for higher wages got some heavy-duty support yesterday from City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito — and two councilman who got themselves arrested when they blocked traffic Park Slope.

Cops escorted Councilmen Carlos Menchaca and Brad Lander, their hands zip-tied behind them, into a police van.

Also taken into custody: Stuart Appelbaum, president of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, and three others who were blocking 19th Street near Seventh Avenue, front of the Vegas Auto Spa car wash.

Mark-Viverito, who was not arrested, wants to boost regulation of city car washes and strengthen protections for their employees, many of whom are immigrants.

Eight car wash workers sued Leshehinsky for at least $600,000 in back wages in a months-old dispute that started last fall. They say they were locked out of Vegas; the owner maintains they're on strike.

The workers allege that they were paid as low as $4.50 an hour, and never the legal minimum wage, which went to $8.75 in December.

Organizers also say employees were denied overtime pay.

Leshehinsky disputed lawsuit and other claims against him and his business, which was closed at the time of the rally.

Leshehinsky brushed off the latest protest, telling Metro: "It doesn't really accomplish anything. Acts like these don't help."

He said he's been waiting more than three weeks for the union to respond to his offer.

CHESTER SORIA
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Holidays

Muslim holidays on school calendar

Schools will close to recognize Eid al-Adha this fall on Sept. 23 and summer school will close for Eid al-Fitr on July 17, in what Mayor Bill de Blasio called "a change that respects the diversity of our city."

Also called the Feast of Sacrifice, it marks biblical Abraham's obedience to God, who asked him to kill his son, Isaac.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month, which starts June 17 this year. METRO

Weather. More snow, then moderate temps

Snow. And more snow. BILLY BECERRA/METRO

The four to six inches New Yorkers are expected to wake to Thursday should be the worst of the latest wintry blast to hit the city, and will taper off in the afternoon, forecasters say.

An official winter storm warning continues through 7 p.m., and while city schools will be open, field trips have been cancelled.

Friday will be dry, with "unseasonably cold" temperatures not climbing above the low teens on Friday morning, said David Roache, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. Highs will be in the mid-20s on Friday afternoon.

Roache said New Yorkers can expect moderate temperatures above freezing on Saturday and Sunday, with sunny skies and temperatures in the high 30s and low 40s.

No snow is expected in the early part of next workweek … so far.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Stopping street harassment cold

Civil rights. Feminista Jones talks street harassment for women of color, and how to end the catcalling.

Feminista Jones walks through the South Bronx near Crotona Park. / HANNAH MATTIX, METRO

Catcalls, unwanted following and touching are an often-daily reality for women in New York City, where a recent survey shows that social services reported 86 percent of their clients having experienced street harassment.

On Thursday, anti-street harassment group Hollaback! is hosting an afternoon of talks and performances at The New School, for the third-annual Hollaback! Revolution.

Metro spoke with Feminista Jones, a mental health social worker, activist and writer who started the hashtag #YouOKSis last year as a way for women to quickly connect and check in with each other after a sexual harassment experience.

How did you get your start as an activist?

I started really hard-core when I was 19 in college working on affirmative action. That's kind of why I don't like when people talk about things being hashtag activism, many of us that are out here doing the work have been doing this stuff, social media has just given us a platform to get our messages out.

Your first experience with street harassment?

I was 11 years old and I started school in Manhattan, and at that time my mom trusted me to come home on the train by myself. I was coming home one evening and I had my headphones on, but I could still hear a man calling out to me "Hey, baby girl. Hey pretty girl, why are you walking so fast? Where are you going? Can I talk to you?" And I remember being, like, is this guy talking to me? Doesn't he see I'm only 11 years old?

What's the idea behind #YouOKSis.

When I had an experience with street harassment I would tweet about it, and for me, therapeutically, it was helping me deal with some of the anxiety that I was starting to go through dealing with this. And one day, I saw a situation that was happening with another woman and I kind of intervened, and I ended up telling Twitter about it, and that's how the #YouOkSis was born.

How is street harassment different for women of color?

For most of us, it started when we were 10 to 12 years old … It's often harsher, there's more grabbing, it's more physical interaction, it's a lot more predatory for younger girls.

What's next for you and your work?

Quoted

"It was becoming more of a trigger for anxiety ... That's why I started tweeting about it. There would be four or five people who said 'I'm sorry that happened.'" Jones

You see Harlem, you see Brooklyn, but there's not a lot happening in the Bronx. So I want to start a grassroots campaign where we can go into the schools and do these workshops on street harassment and get these girls as young as 10 years old, so that they can protect themselves, but also teaching the boys this is not what it means to be a man.

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Secretary of State John Kerry flew to Saudi Arabia later on Wednesday and plans to meet the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany in Paris on Saturday. / GETTY IMAGES

Kerry: Demanding Iran's 'capitulation' won't get nuke deal

Problems. Kerry aides say obstacles remained before the deadline for an outline accord.

Simply demanding Iran's capitulation is no way to secure a nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic, Secretary of State John Kerry said on Wednesday as he wrapped up three days of talks with a veiled dig at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Kerry said he and Iranian counterpart Mohammad Jawad Zarif made some progress in their negotiations in the Swiss lakeside town of Montreux and would resume them on March 15.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu said in his speech that Washington was negotiating a bad deal with Iran that could spark a "nuclear nightmare," drawing a rebuke from President Barack Obama and exposing a deepening U.S.-Israeli rift.

Kerry said politics and external factors would not distract from the talks, which aim to constrain Iran with intrusive U.N. access and verification of its nuclear activity and lengthen the "break-out" time needed for it to build any nuclear weapon.

"No one has presented a more viable, lasting alternative for how you actually prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. So folks, simply demanding that Iran capitulate is not a plan. And nor would any of our P5+1 partners support us in that position."

The other P5+1 countries are Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany, who would all have to sign off on a deal. REUTERS

Quoted

"There are still significant gaps and important choices that need to be made."

Kerry, speaking to reporters after more than 10 hours of talks with Zarif

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Fugitive

Snowden says US not offering fair trial if he returns

Edward Snowden, the fugitive former U.S. spy agency contractor who leaked details of the government's mass surveillance programs, said on Wednesday he is not being offered a fair trial if he returns to the United States.

Edward Snowden
GETTY IMAGES

"I would love to go back and face a fair trial, but unfortunately ... there is no fair trial available, on offer right now," he said in a live question and answer discussion organized by Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, Ryerson University and the CBC.

REUTERS

Quoted

"I've been working exhaustively with the government now since I left to try to find terms of a trial."

Snowden

Probe finds systematic, racially biased policing in Ferguson

Attorney General Eric Holder delivers remarks about the Justice Department's findings at the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building on Wednesday in Washington, D.C. / GETTY IMAGES

Leadership. The report led to fresh calls for the city's police chief to step down.

A U.S. probe found systemic racial bias and unconstitutional policing that targeted blacks in Ferguson, Missouri, but cleared a white officer there in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager in August, the Justice Department said on Wednesday.

The report said police in the St. Louis suburb issued almost all of its traffic citations to blacks as it tried to raise revenue through fines and court fees.

Police also targeted blacks for arrests, many on dubious grounds, and spread racist jokes through emails, said the report.

The report said city officials routinely urged Police Chief Tom Jackson to generate revenue through enforcement actions against the town's mostly black population.

Officers were promoted in part based on the number of citations they issued, and civilians were seen less as "constituents to be protected than as potential offenders and sources of revenue," the report said.

Attorney General Eric Holder said the city's leaders needed to take immediate action to overhaul a troubled system.

"This investigation found a community that was deeply polarized, and where deep distrust and hostility often characterized interactions between police and area residents," Holder said in a statement.

The report said Ferguson police conduct stops without reasonable suspicion and make arrests without probable cause. It said African-Americans in Ferguson were more likely to be charged with petty offenses and held longer in jail than other races.

REUTERS

Quoted

"This emphasis on revenue has compromised the institutional character of Ferguson's police department, contributing to a pattern of unconstitutional policing." The Justice Department

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Bombing suspect's lawyer on first day of trial: 'It was him'

Trail. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev helped carry out the bombing, and his lawyers plan to explain why.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev helped carry out the Boston Marathon bombing at the Boylston Street finish line on April 15, 2013, his attorney told a packed courtroom Wednesday in the opening day of the 21-year-old's trial.

"It was him," attorney Judy Clarke said in her opening statement at the Moakley Federal Courthouse in the Seaport District. "So you might say, 'Why a trial?'"

Clarke pinned blame on Tsarnaev's dead brother, Tamerlan, who died during a shootout with police three days after the bombing.

"We do not and will not at any point in this case sidestep Dzhokhar's responsibility for his actions. We think the question of why is important, and this is where we disagree," Clarke said in her response to prosecutor Assistant U.S. Attorney William Weinreb's opening statement.

"We have different answers to this question," said Clarke.

Legal expert Karen Pita Loor, a Boston University law professor, says Tsarnaev's defense team is focusing on the sentencing and conceding his guilt.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who would have been 28 today, was the mastermind of the terror spree, and Dzhokhar was merely dragged into his older brother's obsession with radical Islam but bore no hatred towards his fellow Bostonians.

Court sketch By Jane Collins / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

Quoted

"Unfortunately and tragically, Dzhokhar was drawn into his brother's passion and plan and that led him to Boylston street." Clarke

"Tamerlan became aggressively obsessed with talking about Islam," said Clarke. "It was Tamerlan Tsarnaev who self-radicalized. It was Dzhokhar who followed him.

"Dzhokhar's grades at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth were plummeting; he was skipping class and was in danger of flunking out of school," Clarke said.

"Dzhokhar became much more vulnerable to the influence of someone he loved and very much respected — his older brother," she said. "[Tamerlan] had a special kind of influence dictated by age, culture and Tamerlan's sheer force of personality."

Earlier Thursday, Weinreb painted a darker picture of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and described him as a radical Islam-obsessed teenager who lived a double life as a college student by day and a fan of terrorist teachings by night.

"He had a side to him that he kept hidden, even with his closest friends," said Weinreb.

Weinreb relayed to the jury graphic details of the deaths of bombing victims Martin Richard, 8, Krystle Campbell, 29, and Lingzi Lu, 23, and showed smiling photographs of each in happy times.

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Five things you

1 Netanyahu's popularity rises after speech, polls show

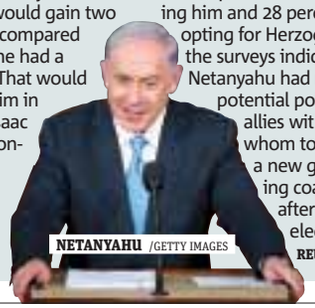
Israeli opinion polls on Wednesday showed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu got a slight boost in popularity after his U.S. speech slamming an emerging nuclear deal with Iran, but he is still running neck and neck with his leading rival in a March 17 election.

A survey published by Channel 10 television indicated Netanyahu's Likud party would gain two seats to 23 compared with what he had a week ago. That would still leave him in a tie with Isaac Herzog's Zionist Union.

The country's Channel 2 television had Netanyahu's right-wing party up by one seat to 23, just behind Herzog's left-of-center list.

In separate surveys conducted by the channels on each candidate's individual popularity, Netanyahu was favored by 44 percent for the job of prime minister, up two percentage points from a week ago. Herzog's number declined by two percentage points to 35 percent, results by Channel 10 showed.

But Netanyahu was further ahead of his rival in a Channel 2 popularity poll, with 47 percent choosing him and 28 percent opting for Herzog. All the surveys indicated Netanyahu had more potential political allies with whom to build a new governing coalition after the election. REUTERS



NETANYAHU /GETTY IMAGES

2 Air Force launches push to recruit more women and minorities

The Air Force on Wednesday kicked off a drive to attract and retain more women and minorities, including a push to increase the number of female officers and pilots.

Air Force Secretary Deborah James announced nine measures that she said were critical to ensuring the Air Force's success, such as a Web-based mentoring system, longer deferrals for deployments after pregnancy and a 30 percent target for the percentage of females in the officer applicant pool, up from 25 percent. REUTERS

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need to know

Supreme Court split over Obamacare challenge

The Supreme Court appeared divided on ideological lines Wednesday as it tackled a major challenge to President Barack Obama's health care law, with Justice Anthony Kennedy emerging as a likely swing vote in a ruling.

The nine justices heard 85 minutes of arguments in the case brought by conservative opponents of the law who contend its tax credits aimed at helping people afford medical insurance should not be available in most states. A ruling favoring the challengers could cripple the health care law, the president's signature domestic policy achievement. **REUTERS**

Thirty-three miners feared dead after pit blast in Ukraine

Ten miners were confirmed killed and rescuers held out little hope for another 23 who were still missing after a blast at a coal mine in the rebel-held city of Donetsk near the battle front in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday.

Mine officials said the explosion was most likely caused by gas and not linked to fighting at the nearby frontline in the war between Moscow-backed rebels and Ukraine government forces. **REUTERS**

Rescue workers / GETTY IMAGES

US may review 1959 plane crash that killed Buddy Holly

Transportation safety investigators said on Wednesday they are reviewing a request to reopen a probe into the 1959 airplane crash that killed musicians Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, J.P. Richardson, better known as "The Big Bopper," and their pilot.

The original investigation conducted by the Civil Aeronautics Board blamed the crash on the pilot's decision to embark on an instrument-guided flight he was not certified for and, secondarily, on poor weather briefing. **REUTERS**

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Interview with Tara L Conley. Founder of the women's rights website 'Hashtag Feminism'

Tara L. Conley, a Columbia University doctoral candidate, is noted for founding Hashtag Feminism, a website that curates and analyzes women's rights-related tweets and messages across social media. She talks to Metro about the importance of online activism.

This is the fourth in a Metro series leading up to International Women's Day on March 8.

4 days to International Women's Day

How did you decide to become an activist?
I wouldn't call myself an activist so much as I would say that I'm someone who studies activism in a new media era. Perhaps others might think of the work I do as activist work because it has amplified the work of others, which is fine, but I don't take this term lightly. Having studied the work of activists from past to present, I take seriously the descriptor, and I continue to grapple with what activism looks like and can perhaps become in the future.

How did the idea for Hashtag Feminism emerge?
At the end of 2013, I began following closely conversations and stories attached to hashtags like #SolidarityIsForWhiteWomen, #NotYourAsianSidekick, and #MyFeminismLooksLike. I was fascinated and inspired by the stories and activisms that emerged around these digital artifacts. I put on my researcher's hat and went to Topsy.com, a web-based metrics tool, to learn more about how these tags came about over time. Topsy showed me the data, but it wasn't enough. I wanted to locate stories around the data, and I wanted to contextualize and historicize them, something a metrics tool cannot do. I wanted to curate these stories around feminist hashtags, and I also wanted to analyze them in a way that connects the data with our stories in meaningful ways. So in late 2013, I thought about starting a website that could accomplish these things. I wanted to create a space for myself and for other new writers to produce curated and editorial pieces on our own terms. All of this, along with being inspired by the creative design and execution of Beyonce's last album, influenced how Hashtag Feminism came into existence.

Can you tell us some examples of successful hashtag activism? Why were they a success, in your view?
One of the most successful hashtag campaigns I've seen to date has been #NMOS14 (National Moment of Silence), organized by feminist activist Feminista Jones. I cite this hashtag because it's one where we can see how online organizing and mobilizing has offline impact. In the wake of the fatal shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown, Jones and others used social and digital media to organize silent vigils to honor victims of police brutality around the country. #NMOS14 isn't the first and only mass movement organized online. There are many others. Even before Twitter, women were organizing online around post-Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts using Yahoo! listservs, and young college students in 2007 organized on MySpace and on Facebook during the Jena Six case. I've studied this sort of online-to-offline organizing for years now, and it's always encouraging to see people use new media tools and platforms for this kind of work. You can check out other successful and notable hashtags in our Top Feminist Hashtags lists of 2013 and 2014.

DANIEL CASILLAS,
METRO WORLD NEWS

Tara L. Conley / METRO WORLD NEWS

Question

How can social media help defend rights for women?

I'm not sure social media "defends" women's rights. People do this work. Social media are tools and platforms where we find representation, expression, and where culture emerges.

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1 Chris Brown embraces sudden fatherhood

Surprise! Embattled singer Chris Brown is a dad. All of a sudden. TMZ reports that Brown is the father of a 9-month-old girl with a former model identified only as Nia. There's no sign of legal trouble between the parents, and sources say they're on good terms and not romantically linked. So since it doesn't involve an ambulance dispatch or a court filing, I'm honestly scratching my head as to how TMZ found out about this.

While Brown is said to be "happy about being a father," his happiness is not shared by his on-again, off-again girlfriend, Karrueche Tran, who took to Twitter to officially dump him following the news. "Listen. One can only take so much. The best of luck to Chris and his family," she wrote. "No baby drama for me." Good thinking.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
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2 Seth Rogen smoked too much pot in Amy Pascal's new office

Amy Pascal must seriously be losing patience with Seth Rogen at this point. After that whole business with "The Interview" and the hacking and her losing her job and all, he's now inadvertently making it impossible for Pascal to move into her new office on the Sony lot. According to the Hollywood Reporter, Pascal is set to make a home for her new Sony-financed production company in the offices previously occupied by Rogen and writing partner Evan Goldberg, only the lingering stench of marijuana is so strong that it has seeped into the flooring and is prompting a full paint job. Seriously, Seth, you've never heard of a vaporizer?

3 Conrad Hilton pleading guilty for epic in-flight meltdown

Some trouble you can't just buy your way out of. Conrad Hilton — 21-year-old hotel chain heir and younger brother of Paris — has agreed to plead guilty to an assault charge from his infamous tirade during a flight from London to Los Angeles last year, and he could be looking at up to six months in prison and a $5,000 fine. And GQ even went and tracked down a passenger from the flight, British life coach Patricia Mitchell, who gives a fascinating account of the 11-hour episode. "God, he's an a—hole," she says. "He's been taught a certain way to communicate with people, and it's clearly not working. He looked deeply unhappy." Just imagine how he looks now.

4 Oscars backtracking on Best Picture category rules

Hey, remember when the folks behind the Academy Awards decided to change the Best Picture rules so that more than five films could be nominated? Well apparently six years later, they've decided it was a massive failure, and now they're looking to reverse it. "They tried it, and it really didn't do us any good," an Academy source tells the Hollywood Reporter. The rule change came in 2009 after "The Dark Knight" was left out of the Best Picture race, with the hopes that getting films with more broad appeal nominated would boost the ceremony's ratings. But with a 16 percent dip from last year's Oscars, that's clearly not happening.

Daily video

YAHOO.COM

'Community' ushers in 'The Age of Yahoo'

No, really. Cult favorite sitcom "Community" is really coming back — and soon. New episodes debut on Yahoo! Screen March 17, and to mark the occasion, we now have this awesome, epic trailer perfectly piggybacking on the anticipation for "Avengers: Age of Ultron." Despite all the melodramatic "Avengers" aping, we're pretty sure the final version is going to consist of new, hilarious must-see episodes. "Let's keep Greendale weird," indeed.

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Matthew Perry is mad about his body clock, Mindy Kaling is mortified, John Stamos is not letting you down gently, The Dalai Lama uses Twitter, and Ricky Martin is nothing if not determined.

@MatthewPerry: Why do I wake up when farmers wake up?

@mindykaling: I'm ten minutes early to a thing, I'm so humiliated

@JohnStamos: BACKBONE Stars say no, only amateurs always say yes. If it doesn't feel right, don't do it. Don't be afraid to let people know you won't.

@DalaiLama: Only tolerance and patience can protect us from the destructive effects of anger and hatred.

@ricky_martin: I can. I will. End of story.

Network TV is getting pretty grim

Interview. The actors working on "American Crime" had heavy work ahead of them.

For anyone familiar with ABC as the network that gave us the cute family of "Modern Family," "American Crime" will be a bit of a shock. The show, created by "12 Years a Slave" writer John Ridley, follows the story of one murder, and the shockwaves that reverberate out as the police investigate the crime. The parents of the victim are played by Felicity Huffman and Timothy Hutton in performances both wrenching and human, as they struggle with their own feelings about the investigation.

Asked what pulled him back into series television, Hutton says, "This script and the fact that it was going to be John Ridley in charge of everything. It came at me as a sort of surprise. I read it one day, and I couldn't put it down."

Hutton's patriarch hasn't been a presence in his family's lives, and it was this nuance that helped him find the character. "For me, the kind of heart of the character, in terms of how to attack playing it, was this was somebody who took himself away from the responsibilities that nobody should take themselves away from and was a gambling addict," Hutton says.

"He really wants to be as much of a family as possible to try to pull through it. He realizes that you can't just do that. You're going to have to be measured by how you approached things earlier in your life or didn't approach them," Hutton explains.

"American Crime" premieres Thursday at 10 p.m. on ABC. / VAN REDIN, ABC

ELVIS NOLASCO AND TIMOTHY HUTTON
GETTY IMAGES

Newcomer Elvis Nolasco plays drug addict Carter Nix, whose connection to the crime is not at first clear, but as the investigation draws on, he becomes a suspect. But he never loses all sympathy.

"That's made the whole experience for me so rewarding and so joyful," Nolasco says. "And this was one of the first things John [Ridley] said to me. He's like, 'I'm going to ask a lot of you. I'm going to need you. Are you ready?' I don't want to give too much away, because this guy really goes through the ringer."

LISA WEIDENFELD
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Transformations

All for the role

Nolasco had to transform physically to play the part. Ridley told him, "lose weight, don't cut your hair," in order to look like a drug addict. Once filming wrapped, was running to a barber the next thing he did? "Yes. Right away. Started eating like a maniac," says Nolasco with a laugh.

Asked whether it's hard to shake off such dark subject matter at the end of the day, Nolasco says, "Yes and no. For me, it was just a matter of going home and watching television."

What did the actor watch to relax? "'Orange is the New Black,' 'Scandal,' 'Resurrection,' 'Shark Tank.' I love 'Shark Tank,'" Nolasco says.

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"Secrets and Lies" airs Sundays at 9 p.m. on ABC.

BROWNIE HARRIS, ABC

A doctor becomes a realtor

KADEE STRICKLAND

WIREIMAGE

Interview. KaDee Strickland says she's enjoying the challenges in a role very different from her last one.

Many people change careers, but KaDee Strickland gets to play a pretty big change onscreen. Known for playing Dr. Charlotte King for six years on Shonda Rimes' "Private Practice," she's now appearing in the 10-episode "Secrets & Lies" as Christy Crawford, a realtor, and the wife of a man (Ryan Phillippe) who's accused of killing a small child, who begins to suspect her husband may be guilty. Just how different were the two experiences?

From Shondaland to 'Secret' land: Everything about it from a creative standpoint is different for me, because I've always known my process. When I was in Shondaland, it was a beautiful experience that I had prior to motherhood. I'd done it for six beautiful years of my life. I love working with Shonda. It's full-on, it's surprising at all times, and in a completely different way, I can say the same about this.

And about that career change: You can't get any further away from Charlotte than a real estate professional. I had gel nails; I never did that on "Private." Eyelashes, gel nails, all this stuff, but it was also fun for me because I would go in the neighborhoods around where we were and do research. I looked at real estate agents, and I actually pretended to be looking for a house. That was so different from delving into life-and-death surgery every day.

What was noticeable about those realtors: The way they talked with their hands at times. The way they would stand. The way they would present a room and then walk away and come back with new information. There were certain scenes where I would find myself doing my hands in a certain way, and it was my personal shoutout to my research, which was fun because you gotta mix it up.

The main similarity between the two projects: I had the great Barbie Kligman [who wrote the script], and either way, I was working for two badass women.

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Trying to stop campus sexual assault

Interview. The directors of "The Hunting Ground" say colleges aren't doing enough to stop a longtime problem.

"The Hunting Ground" is documentarians Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering's second film in a row on sexual assault being ignored by institutions. "The Invisible War" concerned the military; "The Hunting Ground" zeroes in on college campuses. They found administrations badly handling, if not outright ignoring, sexual assault charges, leaving survivors to band together to form activist groups.

"The Hunting Ground" seems like a natural outgrowth of "The Invisible War." Was that how it started?
Amy Ziering: In the course of going around campuses showing "Invisible War," time and again students would come up to us and say, "This happened to me here." We started getting letters that said, "I saw 'Invisible War.' Please make a film about this."

What kind of responses have you heard from schools so far?
Kirby Dick: There's been an incredible response from colleges and universities in terms of programming the film. We already have dozens of screenings scheduled around the country. And we've had thousands more inquiries. That is a good sign. It's one reason we made the film. We felt there would be a real opportunity to show the film on campuses across the country, and have those schools see the problem, and find ways to change it, school by school by school.

Andrea Pino, one of the subjects in "The Hunting Ground," fought to report a sexual assault on campus perpetrated by someone whose name she did not know. / RADIUS-TWC

DOCUMENTARIANS KIRBY DICK AND AMY ZIERING
WIREIMAGE

What can they do to change?
AZ: The schools need to improve their investigation and adjudication processes. It's not about anything these survivors could have done differently. That's a very important point. As much as we love the other work that has been done in the field so far, to some extent it still does put the blame on the people it's happening to and not the people who are doing it. I'd love to see these crimes be seen in line with other crimes. You don't sit there and go, "What could have been done differently by someone who's been carjacked?"

MATT PRIGGE
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Another view

The gun debate

Recently there was a call, led by Nevada assemblywoman Michele Fiore, to allow guns on campus, the claim being that that would cut down on the sexual assault. Dick and Ziering disagree.

"The people who are suggesting that just don't understand the issue," Dick explains. "Most of these assaults take place when they're incapacitated. There's no way they could use a gun. When you introduce a gun into that situation it becomes extremely dangerous."

"It's target rape, not date rape. It's a highly premeditated, calculated crime," Ziering says. "If serial predators are canny, they can use a gun against the people they're assaulting. It's ridiculous."

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CELEBRATE FEMINIST MEN ON WOMEN'S DAY

Aziz Ansari is one of the good ones, speaking out about women's issues. / GETTY IMAGES

This Sunday is International Women's Day. Yup, we're 51 percent of the population, and we have to have a day to acknowledge our existence. I was racking my brain, trying to think of what to write this week because I wanted to talk about something positive in celebration. What I came up with was allies: guys who support women and their fight for equality, specifically in Hollywood.

For every studio jerk who thinks women can't open an action film or who casts a 20-year-old as the love interest for a guy with an AARP card, there are those who are fighting alongside us. For instance, "Parks and Recreation" star Aziz Ansari appeared on David Letterman's show to talk about feminism. "My girlfriend has influence on me," he said. "She's a big feminist. That made me think about those kinds of issues. I'm a feminist as well. Any feminists out here? Clap if you're a feminist." When the clapping wasn't too loud, he responded, "I don't believe you."

Feminism, he said, is about equal rights. "You're a feminist if you go to a Jay Z and Beyonce concert, and you're not like, 'Hm, I feel like Beyonce should get 23 percent less money than Jay Z. Also, I don't believe Beyonce should have the right to vote.'" When you put it that way…

He won over a lot of the audience that night, and Twitter was abuzz with people saying, "Oh, I never thought of it like that."

Emma Watson is the spokeswoman for He for She, an international organization for allies of gender equality. When Steve Carell wore He for She cuff links at the Oscars this year, she wrote him an incredibly sweet note of thanks.

I bring all of this up because acceptance of an idea often comes when we hear our heroes or people we admire talking about it. See their films. Tweet thank you notes. And most importantly, be an ally for the ladies in your life.

GEEK GIRL
JENNA BUSCH
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Buffy, too!

Another champion

Then there's Joss Whedon, always an advocate for strong women, who tweeted in support of Anita Sarkeesian's "Tropes vs. Women in Video Games" after Gamergaters attacked her en mass, saying, "Watch the @femfreq #TropesvsWomen vids. Even if u think u get it, the sheer tonnage makes misogyny seem newly appalling." And, "I watched a bunch of women get sliced up in video games and now I'm watching it on my Twitter feed. @femfreq is just truth-telling. Deal." When it was announced that the new Thor would be female, he tweeted "A female Thor? What the hell makes them think THAT would be cool?" with a picture of Katee Sackhoff as Starbuck in "Battlestar Galactica."

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Bloomfield NJ on the Move.

For many years now New Jersey has lured New Yorkers to cross the river. Offering easy access to New York City at a much lower cost of living the move for many is a no brainer. This move has revitalized many cities and towns throughout New Jersey. Now the Township of Bloomfield seems poised to become the next great place to live in New Jersey.

Two key factors have led to Bloomfield's rebirth. First, Bloomfield College recently announced that they have been certified as Bloomfield University. This new status has caused an overwhelming demand of new students registering. Bloomfield University has recently added magnificent student housing buildings to their campus with retail space occupied by Barnes & Noble, Starbucks and clothing stores. Additional buildings have been designed and approved to service the university and will be completed very soon. Secondly, The Township has two major train stations with direct routes to Penn Station/ Madison Square Garden. These train stations and the beautiful downtown shopping areas of Bloomfield have created a demand for new residential communities. Presently, Bloomfield has approved and construction has commenced on hundreds of new living units.

Franklin Development Group is involved in four major projects in Bloomfield with affordable pricing. Franklin Development Group is constantly ahead of the market in choosing locations that are at the beginning stages of a renaissance. Franklin Development Group has professionally decorated models that are available for viewing by appointment by calling **973-345-0800**, Ext. 133 or you can log onto our website at **www.willowmanorbloomfieldnj.com**

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A nice police robot, right, meets the people in "Chappie." / COLUMBIA PICTURES

'Chappie'

1 Before decamping for the "Alien" series, "District 9" perpetrator Neill Blomkamp gets one more go on the cool/violent robot carousel, with Sharlto Copley voicing a cross between E.T. and RoboCop. Though honestly, his upcoming "Alien" will probably have some 'bots too.

'Unfinished Business'

2 Tom Wilkinson deserves a vacation, and he gets one, playing a businessman on a bender with Vince Vaughn and Dave Franco. Then again, the last time Vaughn and director Ken Scott teamed, in "Delivery Man," the former was basically comatose.

'The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'

3 Look, the title doesn't mean to say this isn't as good as the first "Best Exotic Marigold Hotel." Truth is, they're probably about the same, with more low-watt hijinks in an Indian hotel-cum-retirement home for old Brits (Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy, plus Yank newb Richard Gere).

ADMIT ONE

Metro rounds up what's in cinemas this week.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

'Merchants of Doubt'

4 This isn't technically a climate change doc, but it kind of is. Comparing climate change with the long, long time tobacco companies swore there were no toxins in cigarettes, this looks at how companies and swindlers successfully con the public into thinking life-threatening ills won't eradicate us all.

'Buzzard'

5 A funny-depressing missive from Michigan, this indie follows a small-time con artist/metalhead (Joshua Burge) who graduates from stealing office supplies to cashing in a batch of work checks under false pretenses.

'Faults'

6 Actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead and her filmmaker husband Riley Stearns team up for this sometimes amusing drama in which a religious cult deprogrammer (Leland Orser) meets his match when he tries to fix a young follower (Winstead).

'X/Y'

7 Speaking of power couples working together, America Ferrera is one of the ensemble in the latest from her husband, Ryan Piers Williams, which devotes a short film each to a group of lovelorn New Yorkers.

'Grey Gardens'

8 One of the great crossover documentaries, the Maysles brothers' 1975 pop culture phenom hangs at the dilapidated and cat-strewn Long Island manse of "Big and Little Edie," socialites and cousins of Jackie Onassis who let their home and their lives go gloriously to seed.

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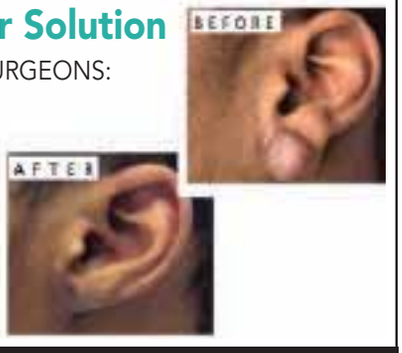

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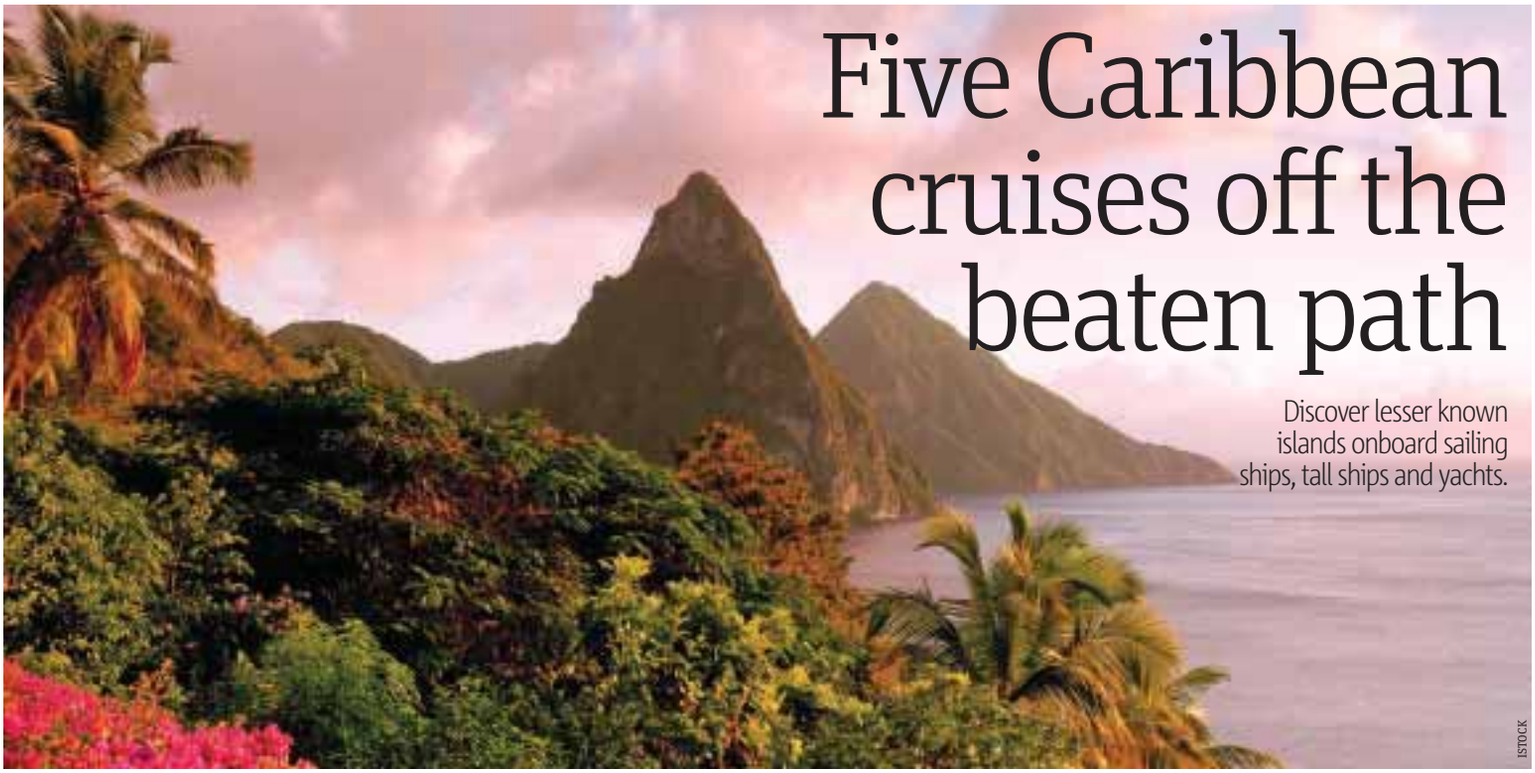


Five Caribbean cruises off the beaten path

Discover lesser known islands onboard sailing ships, tall ships and yachts.

ISTOCK

FRANK CERAVALO

Scenic train rides in West Virginia

See the mountains at their most picturesque from a vintage steam train.

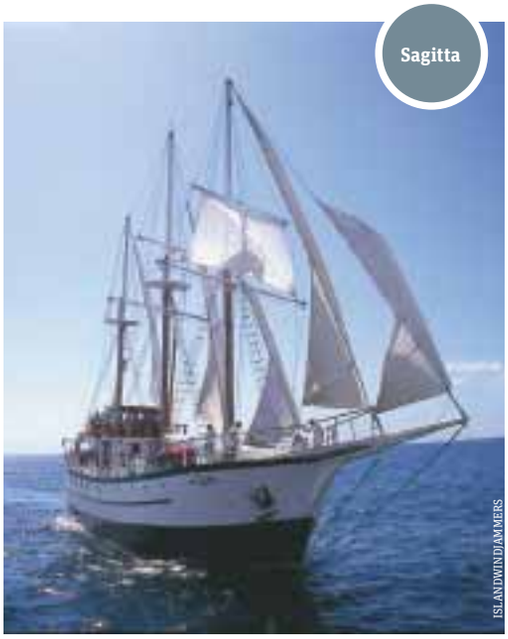
Making moonshine in Virginia

A family tradition: The Bondurant Brothers open their first distillery in Chase City.

ISTOCK

Five Caribbean cruises off the beaten path

SEADREAM



ISLANDWINDJAMMERS

Caribbean ports can get crowded in peak season, so why not join a cruise to some of the less visited islands?

The Caribbean certainly has its parade of "greatest hits" ports. And while they have lovely beaches and plenty of rum punch, they can also be quite crowded, particularly in the wintertime. If you're looking to get away from it all, consider one of these five cruises.

Azamara Journey, Azamara Club

Why we love it: This 686-passenger ship sails from St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. From there, you'll see Guadeloupe, Dominica, Nevis, St. Barth, St. Maarten and Virgin Gorga before returning to Miami. It's the best of both worlds: a great route that ends in an easy flight home.

Book it: The 12-night sailing departs December 11, 2015, and starts at $3,474 per person with double occupancy.

Cruises

Avoid the winter crowds by choosing a cruise that visits the Caribbean's quieter islands.

Sagitta, Island Windjammers

Why we love it: This casual sailing yacht — complete with wood-lined cabins and tall masts — accommodates only 24 passengers at a time. The itinerary includes St. Barts, St. Kitts, Anguilla, Nevis, Iles des Saintes, Dominica, Guadeloupe and Martinique. The rum punch flows freely and snorkeling gear is provided.

Book it: The 12-night sailing departs May 10, 2015, and starts at $2,775 per person with double occupancy.

ISTOCK

SeaDream II, SeaDream Yacht Club

Why we love it: This 112-passenger ship likes to think of itself as a yacht — they have daybeds for two on deck and a watersports platform, and the captain is allowed to change the route based on weather. The round trip out of St. Thomas takes in a variety of small islands, including Anguilla, St. Barth, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke.

Book it: The five-night sailing departs November 22, 2015, and starts at $2,999 per person with double occupancy.

CHRISTIAN WHEATLEY

Royal Clipper, Star Clippers

Why we love it: This 227-passenger tall ship is a dream if you love sailboats, with knot-tying classes, visits to the bridge and a bowsprit net, which may just be the best spot on the ship to sunbathe. The round trip out of Barbados visits Grenada, a couple of small spots in the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Bequia and two ports each in Martinique and St. Lucia.

Book it: The seven-night sailing departs November 28, 2015, and starts at $3,310 per person with double occupancy.

ISTOCK

Wind Star, Windstar Cruises

Why we love it: This 148-passenger ship sails round trip out of Barbados to Grenada, three spots in the Grenadines and two ports in St. Lucia, offering a taste of both the rainforest and the beaches. Watching the sails being unfurled for the first time is a highlight.

Book it: The six-night sailing departs December 12, 2015, and starts at $1,799 per person with double occupancy.

INSIGHT GUIDES | SHERRI EISENBERG

Top tips

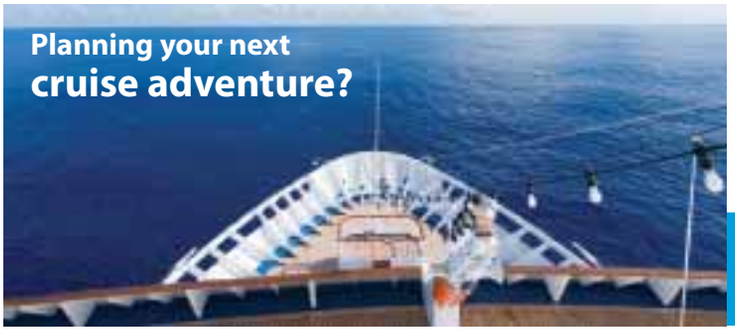
Here are three ways to carve out some island time for yourself.

1 Get in a taxi: Before you leave home, research the nicest beach on the island that's within a short drive. Then, once you're in port, grab the beach towels from your cabin, a snack from the breakfast buffet and hop in a cab.

2 Have a nice, long lunch: If you're in a port you've already seen, or you have had your fill of beach days, make a reservation at one of the nicer restaurants on the isle. Often, you'll find these at luxury resorts.

ISTOCK

3 Plan a run: There's no better way to get to know an island than by throwing on your sneakers and plotting out a route. You'll get your workout in, see the island and work off the big dinner you had the night before.



Discover your perfect cruise with the **Berlitz Cruising Guides**

Berlitz® www.berlitzpublishing.com

Scenic train rides in West Virginia

As spring comes to the West Virginia mountains, winter-weary eyes can enjoy the wildflowers, waterfalls and sweeping vistas on steam train excursions.

The Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad uses classic steam engines and vintage diesels for its Mountain Rail Adventures. Many of these trips go to areas unreachable by cars because there are no roads.

Leaving from Elkins, Durbi and Cass in east-central West Virginia, the line offers a variety of trips. Full-day excursions go deep into the Monongahela National Forest, while shorter sightseeing trips roll along the Greenbrier and Shaver's Fork Rivers.
The season opens on Saturday, April 4, with the kid-centered "Cottontail Express." The Easter Bunny and his friends are on board the 90-minute ride with games and treats. The two trips that day usually sell out.

April 11 and 18 are set aside for the Mountain Cascades Excursion. The four-hour run climbs steep mountain grades with spectacular views along the cascading waters of Shavers Fork. The train stops at the High Falls of Cheat River where spring snow run-off tumbles down the mountain and wildflowers bloom on the hillside.

Cottontail Express

ALL PHOTOS MOUNTAIN RAIL ADVENTURES

Starting Memorial Day Weekend, there's an overnight trip, "Wild Heart of West Virginia." It's a combined ride on two trains, with a run up either Cheat Mountain or Bald Knob (one of the highest mountains in the state). Passengers have the option of staying in an authentic "company" house at the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park (reservations required).

Take a short sightseeing trip or a full day ride aboard a steam train.

The full schedule for the season includes special trains to a folk craft fair; wine tasting trips; trips to bluegrass, gospel and mountain music festivals; murder mystery dinner trains; a viewing of the full lunar eclipse in September; and even an overnight camping trip to a SPAMTRAK festival.

For details of these scenic trips, prices and packages, visit www.mtn-rail.com or call 877-686-7245.

INSIGHT GUIDES | FRAN SEVERN

ISTOCK

Making moonshine in Virginia

When the Bondurant Brothers cork their first bottle of moonshine, they'll be following an old family tradition — only this time it will be legal.

ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

The Bondurant Brothers' granddad and uncles were infamous bootleggers in the south-central Virginia hills during Prohibition. The 2012 movie "Lawless" is loosely based on the family story.

"Making moonshine was a way of surviving in the Great Depression," said brother Robert Bondurant.

Noting the popularity of craft distilleries, the brothers decided to retrieve the family recipe. They're making 'shine the traditional way: "No high tech. We're doing it like they did 100 years ago."

The distillery is in a restored grain mill in Chase City, Virginia.

Their first product, due out in late spring, will be a classic clear moonshine. They plan to also sell apple and peach brandy, as well as an aged corn whiskey later in the year. Look for the first sell date at www.bondurantbrothersdistillery.com

INSIGHT GUIDES | FRAN SEVERN

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Step up your (sneaker) style

Kicks have almost ousted high heels from their longtime position as the most fashionable footwear. While plain white Stan Smith-like pieces are still very much in this season, many brands are ramping up Crayola-esque pops. Metro looks at the top trainer collaborations. **ELODIE NOEL**

1 **Adidas Originals x The Farm Company "Superstar 2"**
$125, Office.co.uk

2 **Converse x Missoni Chuck Taylor All Star**
$95, Shoescribe.com

3 **Le Coq Sportif x Liberty London "Eclat Midnight" sneakers**
$107, Lecoqsportif.com

4 **New Balance 574 Textile Turquoise Sneakers**
$129, Asos.com

5 **Nike Air Huarache**
$100, nike.com

6 **Reebok Classic x Sandro "Insta Pump Fury"**
$180, Sandro-paris.com

7 **Solange x Puma "Trinomic" trainers**
$180, Farfetch.com

8 **Valentino 1973 Rockrunner suede-paneled printed leather sneakers**
$845, Net-a-porter.com

9 **Vans Floral Camo slip-on**
$55, vans.com

10 **Yosh x Swear printed lace-up sneakers**
$125, Swear-london.com

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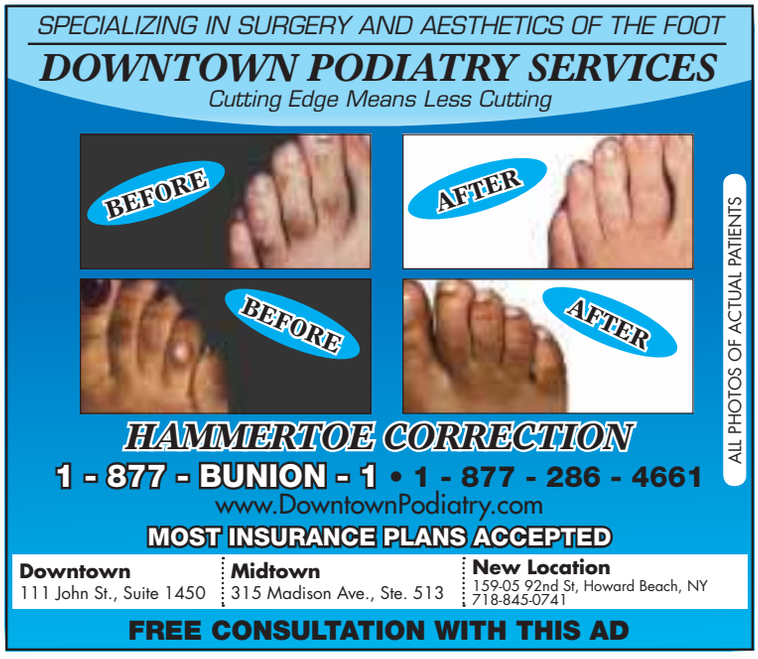

How to find love: Stop looking for perfection

Relationships. Logan Levkoff of 'Married at First Sight' keeps it real.

One expert says the reason we have unrealistic concepts of love is because of popular culture. / ISTOCK

LOGAN LEVKOFF
PROVIDED

Relationship expert and sexologist Dr. Logan Levkoff serves as an expert on the reality show "Married at First Sight" on FYI. The show sends two strangers down the aisle and follows them as they try to keep their marriage afloat; two of the three couples from the first season are still married more than one year later.

Levkoff talked to us about one major issue she thinks is inhibiting healthy relationships: unrealistic expectations of sex and bodies.

You say that people today have unrealistic expectations of sex and physical appearance.
In general, we have these really glamorous expectations of what is sexy and what sex looks like. Magazines gloss over the awkward, real moments as opposed to the sort of airbrushed moments. Even the idea that there are great new sex positions is problematic — we've created this hierarchy of what it means to be good at sex. It's the reason why we're so unsuccessful in our relationships and pursuit of relationships; our expectations are grounded in fantasy.

So what should be done to remedy the problem?
I think the first thing to remember is there's no such thing as being good at sex or anything sexual. I think the best partners are those that ask good questions and listen to us and take our cues and create an environment in which both people's pleasure is maximized.

ANDREA PARK
@andreapark
andrea.park@metro.us

Dating apps

How do you think online dating has contributed to this perception of idealized sex?
I think we should use every option available to us to love and sex if that's what we want. If you want a connection, then why close down avenues available to you? The flip side of that is that the culture of these apps is that there are these giant pools you swipe through really fast, and I think two things happen — we're sort of looking at someone's picture and deciding whether or not something works for us, and maybe it's not really something we're used to in terms of physical type. We're quick to run when an obstacle comes up because it's easy to run instead of thinking about what's worth working through and what are bigger deal-breaker issues. Relationships aren't meant to be easy.

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This publication was supported by grant number X07HA00025 from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This grant is funded through Title II of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990, as amended by Part B of The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009. Its contents are solely the responsibility of Health Research, Inc. and do not necessarily represent the official view of the funders.

my city. now. metro

On your radar

Times Square gets a food hall

Times Square can often feel like it exists in an entirely different universe from the rest of the city, so any time it gets a little local flair is a good thing. And because nothing is trendier right now than food halls, the Row NYC hotel has collected nine local vendors, both permanent and seasonal, to fill the void of non-chain food in the neighborhood.

City Kitchen, which opens today, has seating for more than 70 and views of the intersection we love/hate to enjoy your nosh from some of the city's biggest culinary hits:

Luke's Lobster
ilili Box
Dough
Azuki
Whitmans
Gabriela's
Kuro Obi (Ippudo's ramen venture)

The seasonal vendors are Wooly's, serving shaved snow, and Sigmund's Pretzels.

Vendors were asked to "pare down their menus to the 'best of the best,'" says project manager Heidi Avedisian. So if you're new to one of the restaurants, a trip to its fully fledged location is still in order. But for a slice of what's hot on the city's food scene right now, it's a solid collection.

Opens today
700 Eighth Ave.
Enter at 44th Street or the Row NYC lobby

Thinking better, not beyond, pasta

Chef Jemiko L. Solo doesn't have gluten sensitivity but some of his friends do, and he wanted to give them a safe space to eat. PROVIDED

Senza Gluten. Chef Jemiko L. Solo serves up the Italian fare celiacs have been missing.

There are few things more heartbreaking to an Italian food lover than being told they are gluten intolerant, but chef Jemiko L. Solo is working to give them the next best thing.

Senza Gluten ("senza" means "without" in Italian) opened just after Christmas in Greenwich Village, offering a haven to those with celiac disease by being 100 percent gluten-free, a rarity even in this city's health-conscious food scene.

"When you are gluten-free, you miss the pastas, lasagnas, a nice tiramisu and other sweet desserts," Solo says. "The other day somebody told me, 'Chef Jemiko, thank you so much! It's been five years since I've had a lasagna.'"

Solo, a native of the Republic of Georgia, grew up working in kitchens after the death of his father when he was 14 years old. Then, in 2002, he came to the United States to pursue his dream of becoming a pastry chef.

All the dishes at Senza Gluten are gluten-free, even the lasagna.

Then, his path changed.

After learning about his gluten-sensitive friends' worries when eating out, he wanted to create a place where they could eat risk-free. "I promised them, a year and a half ago, and said, 'Guys, don't worry, one day I'm going to do a little Italian restaurant for you so that you're safe, safe, safe," he says.

He knew that merely offering gluten-free options was not enough: "Flour can stay 48 hours in the air, so no matter how clean you are, it can be damaging to people's health."

Creating his gluten-free dishes, without losing the texture and taste that come with eliminating pasta's main ingredient, was a difficult feat. "I mix some flours and match them up with others; sometimes it doesn't work, so I do another batch and another until I reach a certain point where I'm happy," he says. "Right now I'm working on a cauliflower crust pizza. It's not crispy yet but I'm slowly getting it just right, and that's the best part."

Quoted

"The other day somebody told me, 'Chef Jemiko, thank you so much! It's been five years since I've had a lasagna.'"
Solo

MOLLY CONGDON
@metronewyork
letters@metro.us

The Dish. Unexpectedly authentic menu at Casablanca

A restaurant that evokes sitting in a Moroccan cafe overlooking the glittering ocean couldn't have been a more welcome opening in mid-February. The heavy carved brass doors of Alphabet City's Casablanca open on a cozy 44-seat space: Light from latticed lanterns hanging from the ceiling glitters off the spiky lines of glass and blue-hued wood paneling in the dining room. The restaurant is as much inspired by the film as the city — the massive portrait of the Mona Lisa next to the bar is incongruous unless you've seen the Humphrey Bogart-Ingrid Bergman movie. (They fall in love in Paris.)

The small menu would seem eclectic to anyone who hasn't been to the Middle East. Certain ingredients and flavors are expected — lamb is braised, with caramelized onions and fig jam, on the appetizer menu, then reappears as an entree. But the influences brought in by Asian immigrants also get a spotlight in dishes like the chickpea soup accented by Thai flavors of coconut and cilantro, and there are plenty of other options for vegetarians.

The merguez stew was a highlight, surprisingly spicy and not at all greasy, and managed to let its abundant vegetables shine through a thick broth.

One gripe: Casablanca offers hookahs, but the ventilation system doesn't keep the candy-flavored smoke from wafting. Keep it to the basement lounge, Fes Down, which should open this month. **EVA KIS**

If you go

Casablanca

189 E. Third St.
All week, noon-4 p.m., 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

Geometric waves of blue panels and aged glass decorate the walls.
OMAR ORTIZ

CONCERT

Dropkick Murphys

March 8-10
Irving Plaza, 17 Irving Plaza
$33.50, dropkickmurphys.com
The Boston Irish rockers are making a three-night NYC stop with The Mahones and Blood or Whiskey. Really brave fans can hit Asbury Park, New Jersey, in May after the band returns from a swing around Ireland and the U.K.

ARTS

Surround Audience Triennial

Through March 24
New Museum, 235 Bowery
$16, newmuseum.org
What's it like to grow up online? What happens when your life is dictated by how it's perceived on social media? New Museum explores these themes in its third triennial, with artwork from 51 participants from 25 countries. The show is accompanied by performances and special sessions, including one on identity in the digital age and an exploration through poetry.

FESTIVAL

Entrepreneurs Festival

Friday and Saturday
NYU Tisch Hall
40-44 W. Fourth St.
$24-$99, nyuef2015.org
What's next in business? Explore stories of past entrepreneurial successes and learn what's brewing with today's generation through panels, workshops and roundtables. And networkers, don't fret: Friday's after-party is included with admission, and you don't have to be an NYU alum to attend.

DRINK

Whiskey Walk

Saturday, noon-10 p.m.
Various locations
$64, nycwhiskeywalk.com
Taste some of the U.K.'s finest whiskies at eight bars, all in the name of philanthropy. Whether you see it as a warm-up for St. Patrick's Day or you just want the karma points, you have to admit that $65 isn't bad for a full day of sipping Bushmills, Jameson, Paddy or Powers Gold Label, among others. Small bites are also included.

BEAUTY

Free pedicures from Amope

Today, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
Grand Central, Vanderbilt Hall
Free, amope.com
If you're already daydreaming about sandals, get a head start on spring with a free pedicure station as Amope demos its new electronic foot file, the Pedi-Perfect. Cross your fingers for a chance at a selfie with supermodel Chrissy Teigen in the fairy tale-themed pop-up with thrones and footmen.

DANCE

Beauty of Ballet

Saturday, 2 p.m.
Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts
2900 Campus Road, Brooklyn
Free, brooklyncenter.org
The life of a ballerina is not quite "Black Swan," but these dancers go through plenty of real-life drama to get to the stage. Learn how NYC's top ballet talents ascended to where they are now at this symposium held by the students and teachers of the School of American Ballet.

ARTS

PULSE New York

Through Sunday
Metropolitan Pavilion
125 W. 18th St.
$25 GA, pulse-art.com
If it's contemporary art, it's at PULSE, the portable art fair founded in 2005 with worldwide exhibitors (including Prague, Berlin and Tokyo) with diverse collections. Events range from a "Young Collectors Cocktail Hour" to a "Women in the Art World" tour, including curator talks.

UPCOMING

Choice Eats

March 13, 7 p.m.
Metropolitan Pavilion
125 W. 18th St.
$65, villagevoice.com/choiceeats
Before you switch to the season's fad swimsuit diet, make one last glorious, gluttonous trip to the Metropolitan Pavilion next Friday for unlimited samples from more than 50 restaurants, including BOOMwich, The Gorbals, Tabata Noodle Restaurant, 2 Duck Goose, Butter & Scotch and Gloria's Caribbean Cuisine. Save room for desserts and craft beer pairings. **T. MICHELLE MURPHY**

MUSIC

Tibet House U.S. Benefit Concert

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.
Carnegie Hall, 881 Seventh Ave.; $35-$200, www.tibethouse.com
Tibet House gathered together an incredible lineup for its 25th annual concert, including the Flaming Lips, Laurie Anderson, Ira Glass, Patti Smith, Debbie Harry (pictured, for those who don't know and hail Blondie) and the night's artistic director, Philip Glass. The nonprofit supports the preservation of Tibetan culture.

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Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 Expect an old friend to reappear. You'll enjoy comparing notes. Any hard feelings should be put aside.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20 A minor medical problem will escalate if you don't look after it. You will face obstacles if you aren't accepting. Try going with the flow.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21 Nurture personal relationships by instigating an interesting activity that you can enjoy. Friends, children or your mate should be included in your plans.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20 Someone you were counting on will renege on a promise. Don't waste time thinking of a way to get even.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22 Put your skills to work. Networking and sharing your ideas will impress an influential individual who can help you move your plans forward.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Don't make enemies at work or within your circle of friends. A minor misunderstanding will lead to an uncomfortable situation.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The tide is turning, and flexibility will be key. A new position will have a positive outcome.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Someone will try to discredit or undermine you. Make sure your professional dealings are legitimate. Love is in the stars.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Take on a challenge or get involved in a cause. A decision you make may not be popular, but if you follow through with your plans, you will make a valuable contribution.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 A display of dishonesty will rankle. Keep a low profile and do a little soul searching before you address the issues.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Follow your heart. A change of direction is in the offing. If a new beginning is what you need, make the change.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Positive changes are heading your way. Make everyone aware that you are up for a challenge. Your intelligence will bring results. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		5				1		
		8		1	2		5	9
2		7		9		3		
1		4						
	5		1		7		9	
						8		7
		1		5		4		3
9	8		6	2		5		
		2				9		

		9	4					
6	4		7				1	
	7				5	8		
	1	5	8	7			3	
2								8
	3			5	9	1	2	
		1	9				5	
	2				7		6	9
					4	7		

How to play Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Netanyahu not working for peace

I was not impressed by Netanyahu. He is very hypocritical. He cannot reasonably call for a nuclear-free Iran, while Israel possesses a large nuclear arsenal. I do not like the government of Iran, but he is in no position to criticize. Last summer, he killed 2,300 Palestinians and left over 400,000 homeless in response to the horrific murder of three Israeli teens. He has no peace plan, only a plan to build more settlements and continue to imprison and discriminate against Palestinians. His government practices apartheid. Israel has an elaborate legal structure of separation against Palestinians.
SHIFRA FREEWOMAN

Not an apt metaphor

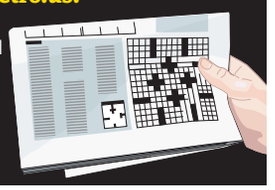
Re: 'What it takes for Kanye West to speak at Oxford' (Metro, Feb. 3)
You shouldn't have been a fan of Kanye West's comment: "We have the ability to approach our race like ants, or we have the ability to approach our race like crabs." Crabs are almost constantly fighting against each other. Ants, though highly hierarchical, at the end they do what is best for everyone in the colony. How do you think the world would be if everyone worked for the well being of everyone else?
LILY MARIN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Visit us online at **Metro.us.**

Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.



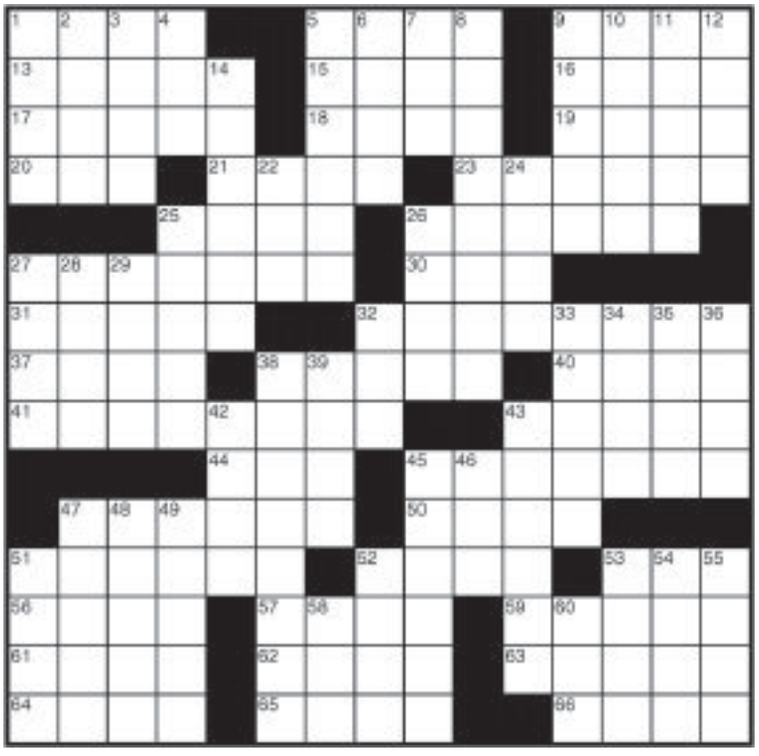
Crossword

Across

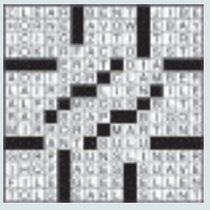
1 Bounce along
5 Sight from Messina
9 Relieved sigh
13 More than uptight
15 Hoops nickname
16 Drift here and yon
17 Not spaced-out
18 Dance wear
19 Declare
20 Yang complement
21 Helped an actor
23 Fuse unit
25 Not a single woman
26 Horrible
27 Ennui
30 Friction easer
31 Griffith or Zola
32 Howls at the moon
37 Boundaries
38 Marmalade chunks
40 Latest thing
41 Where to make a splash
43 Slight trace
44 Puffin kin
45 Common wildflowers
47 Finds out
50 Mouse catchers
51 Ran after
52 Guitar ridge
53 Toothpaste type
56 Fails to keep up
57 Reason to cram
59 Chopin opus
61 Between ports
62 Facet
63 "The Black Tulip" author
64 On guard
65 Stadium section
66 Real estate ad abbr.

Down

1 Influence
2 Fuzzy fruit
3 Persia, today
4 -- annum
5 Respect
6 Dull sound
7 "Mona Lisa" crooner
8 Opening number of "Hair"
9 Shawls, e.g.
10 Shack
11 A chicken in — pot
12 Had been
14 Make the call
22 Pilot's sighting
24 Pepper grinder
25 — rarebit
26 Kind of dust
27 Complain
28 Old Dodge model
29 Disposes of
32 Sturm — Drang
33 Faulty
34 Cager -- Kukoc
35 Threshold
36 Gets the message
38 Least flat
39 Calligraphy fluids
42 Fix apples
43 Sloped
45 Attic window
46 Floor
47 "Kundun" setting
48 Rah-rah
49 Test, as ore
51 Lobster pincer
52 Slowly vanish
53 Adhesives
54 Mild cheese
55 In case
58 Noon on a sundial
60 Butter container



Yesterday's answer



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Eagles and Jets poised to make Mariota trade

NFL. The Eagles have 'internally prepared' to move up in the draft.

If Marcus Mariota is available at No. 6 in next month's NFL Draft, he likely will be taken. But a league source said the Jets, in desperate need of a quarterback, won't be selecting the former Oregon QB there and that the Eagles and Jets would make a trade if the scenario plays out.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a highly placed league source termed a potential marriage between Mariota, the Heisman and Maxwell Award winner after a stunning 2014 season, and the Jets as "highly unlikely."

The Jets would get a "Ricky Williams-like deal" from the Eagles according to a league source. / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

6

The Jets pick at No. 6, but there are several teams in front of them that need quarterbacks including Tampa Bay and Tennessee, who pick Nos. 1 and 2 overall.

The source said that the Jets aren't in the mood to pick Mariota with their sixth pick and that, if the Oregon quarterback is available, the "Jets will be shipping that pick away."

The likely landing spot?

"Philadelphia would make that move and pay that price. We're talking multiple picks and a player," the source said. "The Jets would be open to moving the pick and the Eagles have internally prepared to move up in the draft. There are contingencies in place, and they know that Marcus is that perfect fit."

Of course, Mariota played under current Eagles head coach Chip Kelly before Kelly left for the NFL in 2013. Given his obvious familiarity with the Eagles' offense, Mariota would walk into Philadelphia as the likely starting quarterback of the Eagles come Week 1.

The source said with "100 percent certainty" that if Mariota is available at No. 6, it will be the Eagles, and not the Jets, who will be picking at that spot.

"The Eagles covet Marcus and rightly so. He's a great fit for their offense," the source said.

KRISTIAN DYER
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Four things you need to know

1 Bills land Cassel

In the span of about 18 hours, the Buffalo Bills rebuilt their offense.

A quarterback-running back combo of Matt Cassel and LeSean McCoy won't have fans harkening back to Jim Kelly and Thurman Thomas in terms of balance, but it's a great start for new Bills head coach Rex Ryan. The Bills acquired Cassel from the Minnesota Vikings on Wednesday, sending multiple undisclosed draft picks to the Vikings. Cassel isn't guaranteed the starting job as he will likely fight with EJ Manuel in training camp for the spot.

MATT BURKE

MATT CASSEL
GETTY IMAGES

2 Allen will skip 2014-15 NBA season

Free agent guard Ray Allen said Wednesday that he will not play this season, but could be a gun-for-hire next season. "Over the past several months, I have taken a lot of time to deliberate what is best for me," Allen said in a statement. "I've ultimately decided that I will not play this NBA season. I'm going to take the remainder of this season, as well as the upcoming offseason, to reassess my situation, spend time with my family and determine if I will play in the 2015-16 season."

MATT BURKE

3 Manning takes sizable pay cut

The Broncos will get to have their cake and eat it too in 2015 as Peyton Manning restructured his contract, taking a $4 million pay cut, to allow Denver to make some free agent acquisitions.

Manning is scheduled to have a physical exam this week and his contract is expected to be finalized so long as he passes tests. Manning struggled down the stretch of the 2014 season as he had more interceptions than touchdowns in December. The Broncos were one-and-done in the postseason, losing at home to Indy.

MATT BURKE

4 A-Rod goes 1 for 2 in return

Alex Rodriguez has done all the right things off the field in recent weeks, but Wednesday was the first sign that the Yankees' maligned slugger was ready to turn the page on the field.

A-Rod singled in his first spring training at-bat after 18 months away from live action. He also walked, going 1-2 on the day, in a game the Philadelphia Phillies won, 3-1.

"I was just happy I made contact, and I was pleasantly surprised it was a base hit," Rodriguez told ESPN. "I was a little nervous."

MATT BURKE

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